

Musithink 101 Frère Jacques Getting a picture of the whole tune

Learn how to make a pitch* profile of a tune

You just need a pen or pencil

This task prepares you for working with Frère Jacques in detail. Much of it is really obvious, but it will help you to get an overview of the tune.

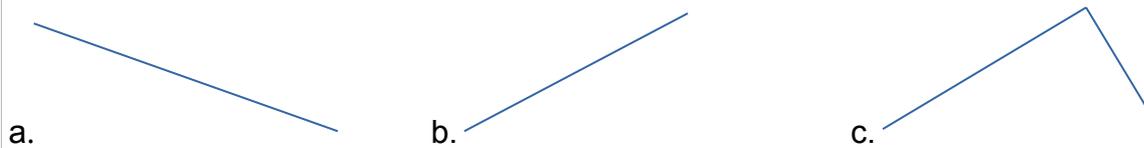
1. Sing “Frère Jacques” out loud or in your head.

You sing each lot of words twice. Notice that the note pattern is the same as well.

How many different patterns are there in the tune? (answers at the foot of the page)

2. Think about the first pattern only – the notes for the words “*Frère Jacques*”.

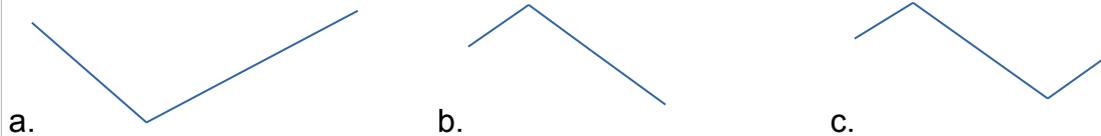
Focus on the pitch of the notes. Which of these diagrams represents the pitch profile best?



3. Think about the next pattern: “*dormez vous*”

Which of the three patterns in the box above best represents this one?

4. What about “*sonnez les matines*”? Here are 3 diagrams to choose from:



5. And then “*ding, dang, dong*”. Draw that one for yourself.

6. This is more challenging. You are going to have to think about how each pattern relates to the others. The horizontal line indicates the pitch of the first note. Draw the profiles of the 4 different patterns relating them to each other. Is the last note the same as the first one, higher or lower?

Frè - re Jac - ques dor - mez vous son - nez les ma - ti - nes ding dang dong

1. 4 patterns 2. c 3. b 4. b 5. down and up again 6. last note is same pitch as first note

*Pitch. The up and down of music. For example “*Somewhere over the Rainbow*” starts with a low note and jumps up to a high note. The two notes differ in pitch.